

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 05331 091836Z

61

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9655

INFO AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMCONSUL DOUALA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAGOS 5331

E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, NI, CM

SUBJ: MARITIME BORDER BETWEEN NIGERIA AND CAMEROON

REF: LAGOS 5180

YAOUNDE 1887 AND 1912

1. NIGERIAN COMMISSIONER FOR MINES AND POWER MONGUNO, WHO ATTENDED THE GOWON-ADHIDJO SUMMIT MEETING IN MAROUA MAY 30-JUNE 1, TOLD VISITING ASHLAND OIL COMPANY EXECUTIVES JUNE 5 THAT THE FOUR-KILOMETER WIDE CORRIDOR ESTABLISHED BY THE TWO HEADS OF STATE IN KANO, SEPTEMBER 1, 1974, IS IN NIGERIAN WATERS, BUT NIGERIA HAD AGREED AT MAROUA TO CEDE TO CAMEROON THE EASTERMOST 750 METERS OF THE CORRIDOR. HE IMPLIED THAT OIL EXPLORATION COULD RESUME SHORTLY ON BOTH SIDES OF THE NEW LINE, BUT HE APPEARED NOT TO BE FAMILIAR WITH THE CONDITIONS WHICH WOULD APPLY AND REFERRED HIS VISITORS TO THE NIGERIAN NAVY FOR DETAILS. HE APPEARED NOT TO HAVE A COPY OF THE SO-CALLED MAROUA DECLARATION AND ANNEX AND, IN ANY EVENT, DID NOT HAVE A COPY TO GIVE ASHLAND.

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PAGE 02 LAGOS 05331 091836Z

2. COMMENT: MONGUNO'S ACCOUNT WOULD PLACE THE NEW BORDER

1.25 KILOMETERS EAST OF THE FOUR BUOYS (3, 2, 1, AND FAIRWAY)
SHOWS ON BRITISH ADMIRALY CHART NO. 3433 BUT THERE ARE STILL MANY
UNANSWERED QUESTIONS (E.G. THE SEAWARD AND LANDWARD EXTENSIONS,
LOCATION OF THE CHANNEL FOR NAVIGATION, AREAS FROM WHICH OIL
RIGS OR PERMANENT PLATFORMS WILL BE EXCLUDED), AND IT REMAINS
ESSENTIAL TO OBTAIN COPIES OF THE MAROUA DECLARATION AND
ANNEX. ASHALDND BELIEVES THAT THE 1974 WELL (BIBOUNDI 1)
AUTHORIZED BY CAMEROON AND DRILLED IN DISPUTED WATERS BY ELF
(SEE LAGOS 8382 OF SEPTEMBER 6) WOULD COME WITHIN THE 750-METER
STRIP OF THE 4-KILOMETER CORRIDORY.
EASUM

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